

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03

CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20 NSC-07 SS-20

STR-08 CEA-02 H-03 PRS-01 PA-04 USIA-15 SWF-02 EUR-25

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R 271350Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8616

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJ: SADAT MOVES TO QUIET CONSUMER UNREST

1. AS EMBASSY HAS BEEN REPORTING THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION LAST THREE WEEKS REGARDING HIGH PRICES OF CONSUMER GOODS AND UNAVAILABILITY OF SOME NECESSARY ITEMS, THE MOST RECENT OF WHICH WAS SOAP. FOLLOWING SEVERAL SPECAIL CABINET SESSIONS REGARDING SONSUMER PROBLEMS, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT SADAT WOULD PERSONALLY CHAIR A MEETING OF THE CABNET AUGUST 25 TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM.

2. BANNER HEADLINES AUGUST 25 IN ALL PAPERS DEALT WITH SADAT'S ATTENDANCE AT THE COUNCIL MINISTERS'S MEETING, AND REPORTED IN DETAIL THE DECISIONS WHICH WERE TAKEN TO DEAL WITH THE SHORTAGES AND RISE IN PRICES. MAIN DECISION REGARDING 50 MILLION DOLLARS ALLOCATION FOR IMPORTATION OF ESSENTIAL FOOD PRODUCTS SEEM TO BE A REPLAY OF AN EARLIER DECISION REGARDING IMPORTATION OF CERTAIN PRODUCTS.

3. CABINET ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT OTHER SOURCE OF CONSUMER RELIEF WOULD BE 80 MILLION DOLLARS ALLOCATED UNDER THE 250 MILLION
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DOLLARS ASSISTANCE FROM THE US AND MONEY FROM LOANS FROM IRAN AND WEST GERMANY. OTHER MOVES SUCH AS BOLSTERING THE POULTRY

INDUSTRY AND SPEEDING UP MATCH FACTORY CONSTRUCTION WERE ALSO HEAVILY REPORTED.

4. MAIN ASPECT OF COVERAGE OF SADAT'S PARTICIPATION WAS HIS ADMONITION TO THE MINISTERS THAT THEY SHOULD EXERT MAXIMUM EFFORT TO REALIZE THE AMBITIONS OF THE PEOPLE. EDITORIAL COMMENT PRAISES SADAT PERSONAL ATTENTION TO THE PUBLIC WHILE IT CONTINUES TO BERAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOR ITS LACK OF COORDINATION AND COOPERATION.
EILTS

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